

Teacher Support Sheet - dialogue rules example

1. Hug the direct speech with speech marks:

"I rang earlier," explained Fred.

2. Add a reporting clause to say who is speaking:

"I rang earlier," **explained Fred.**

3. Begin direct speech with a capital letter:

" **I** rang earlier," explained Fred.

4. Separate dialogue from reporting clauses with a comma:

" I rang earlier," explained Fred.

The receptionist replied, "Could you sign in please?"

5. Don't use a comma for speech ending in ? and !:

"Shoe size!" exclaimed the receptionist.

"Why?" asked Fred.

6. Start a new line for each change of speaker:

" I rang earlier," explained Fred.

The receptionist replied, "Could you sign in please?"

"Of course I could but I need to see someone about the hole," he answered.

7. Continue an interrupted dialogue sentence with a lower case letter:

"I'm sorry," replied Fred, "it's quite a small hole and quite a small apartment."

Collect children's existing knowledge about speech punctuation and add the remaining, in language which is accessible to them. Display for children to refer to. Add examples of dialogue, with the rules applied, help to make them clear.

The rules above have been listed in order of difficulty/development of usage and may, if teachers choose, be used to create layered targets or in prioritising the rules.

For example,

1-3 must be followed

4-5 should be followed

6-7 could be followed

(Rules adapted from Sue Palmer's **The Punctuation Book**)

Unit 2 Day 1

Phone Call

...Yes, Hello...I've found a hole...in
my apartment...Yes, no...It keeps
moving...Yes...Could you come and
have a look....No...OK...Take it with
me...to you? How....Hello?

Dialogue Practice - 1

*Rewrite these sentences so that **speech marks** hug the spoken words.*

1. I understand that you need our help, said the expert.
2. Yes, I do, replied Fred.
3. I've found a hole, he went on.
4. Where did you find the hole? asked the expert.
5. In my apartment, stated Fred.
6. Very good, responded the expert, I'll need to ask you some questions: Is it unusual? Have you seen one like it before?
7. Yes, No, responded Fred.
8. Could you come and see it? requested Fred.
9. I'm sorry, apologised the expert, that's not a service we are able to provide.
10. What shall I do then? queried Fred.

Dialogue Practice – 1 - Answers

1. “I understand that you need our help,” said the expert.
2. “Yes, I do,” replied Fred.
3. “I’ve found a hole,” he went on.
4. “Where did you find the hole?” asked the expert.
5. “In my apartment,” stated Fred.
6. “Very good,” responded the expert, “I’ll need to ask you some questions. Is it unusual? Have you seen one like it before?”
7. “Yes, No,” responded Fred.
8. “Could you come and see it?” requested Fred.
9. “I’m sorry,” apologised the expert, “that’s not a service we are able to provide.”
10. “What shall I do then?” queried Fred.

Dialogue Practice 2

Hug the direct speech with speech marks and then separate it from the reporting clause with commas.

1. Good morning said Fred I rang earlier about the hole.
2. I found it in my apartment he went on.
3. It's really rather heavy he exclaimed, as he balanced the box.
4. That's all very well answered the receptionist but I'll need you to sign in.
5. I'm happy to do that replied Fred.
6. I'll need your id as well, he demanded.
7. Of course responded Fred I just want to get help.
8. Someone should be able to help reassured the receptionist, speaking more kindly.
9. You're really sure? Fred asked, anxiously.
10. We see holes all the time he said, seeming rather proud.

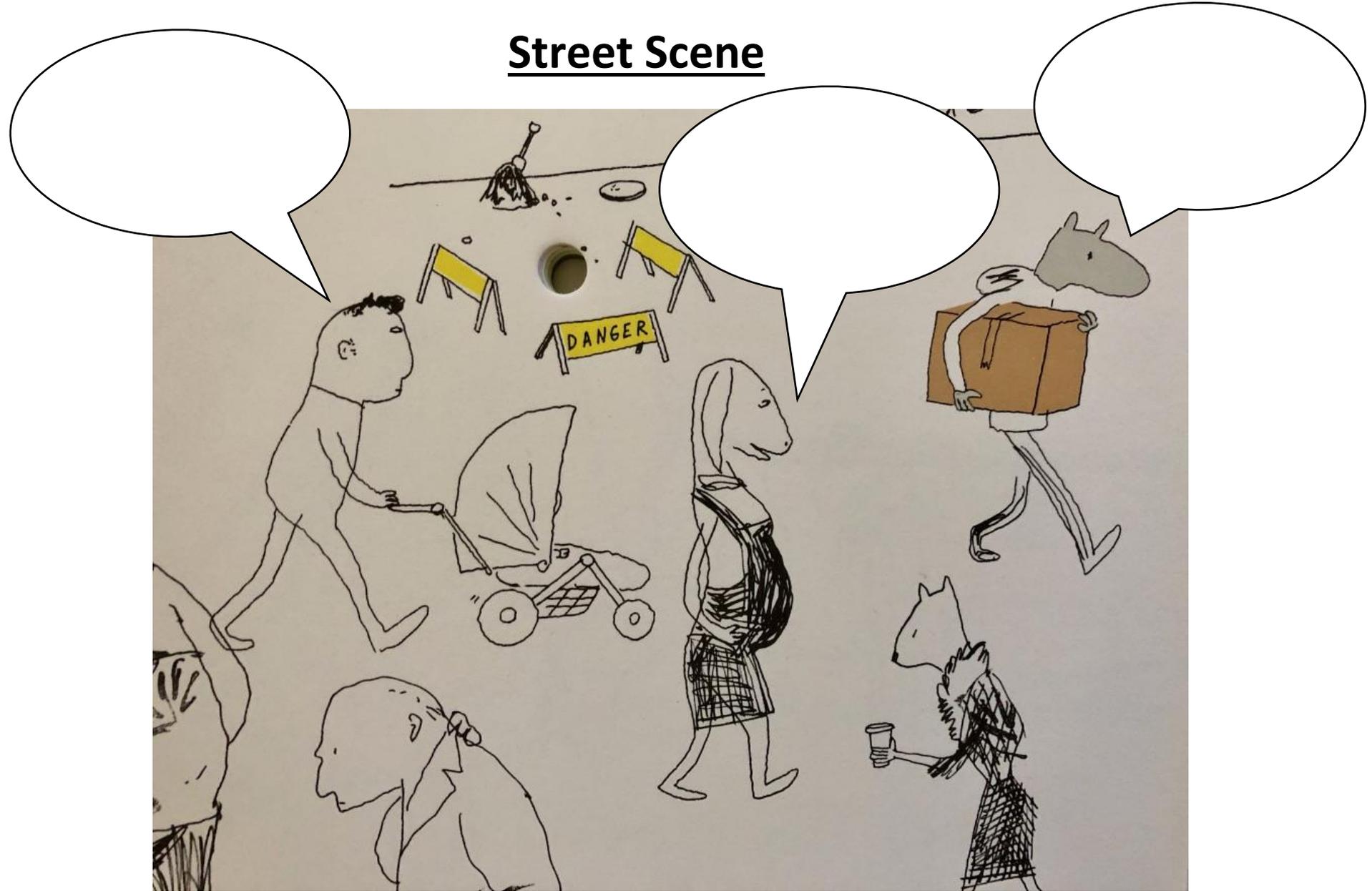
Write some more speech between Fred and the receptionist and punctuate it correctly.

Unit 2 Day 1

Dialogue Practice 2 – Answers

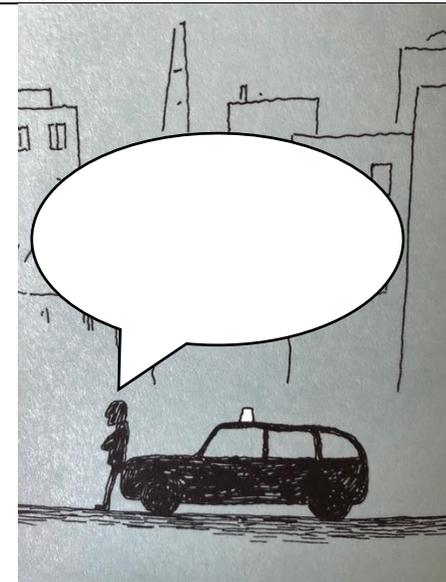
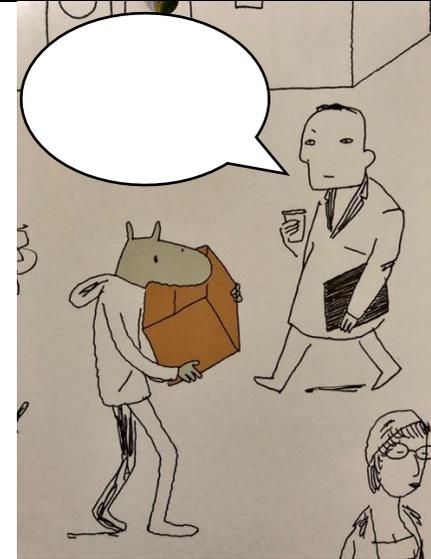
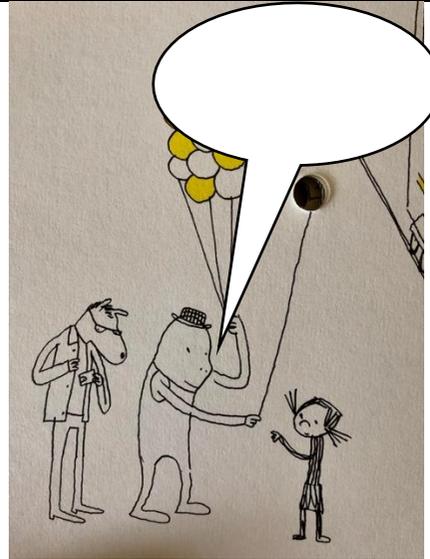
1. “Good morning,” said Fred, “I rang earlier about the hole.”
2. “I found it in my apartment,” he went on.
3. “It’s really rather heavy,” he exclaimed, as he balanced the box.
4. “That’s all very well,” answered the receptionist, “but I’ll need you to sign in.”
5. “I’m happy to do that,” replied Fred.
6. “I’ll need your id as well,” he demanded.
7. “Of course,” responded Fred, “I just want to get help.”
8. “Someone should be able to help,” reassured the receptionist, suddenly speaking more kindly.
9. “You’re really sure?” Fred asked, anxiously.
10. “We see holes all the time,” he said, seeming rather proud.

Street Scene



Unit 2 Day 2

Dialogue Scenes



Dialogue Ideas

Dialogue Checklist

1. Hug the direct speech with speech marks:

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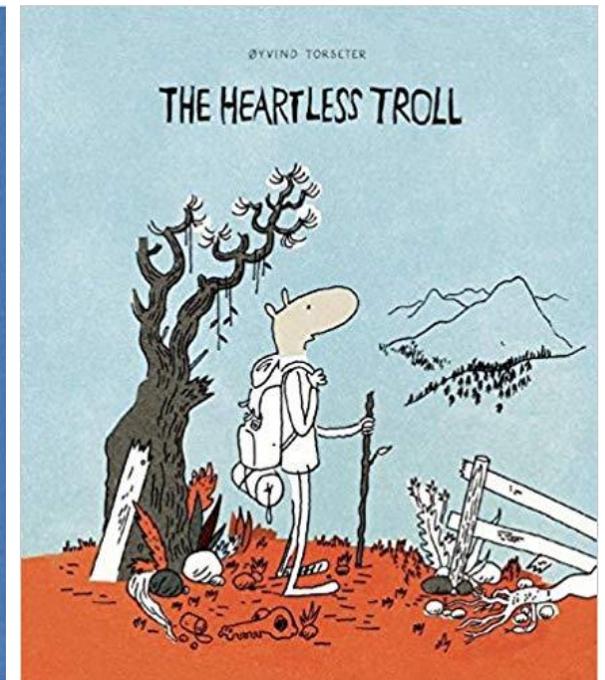
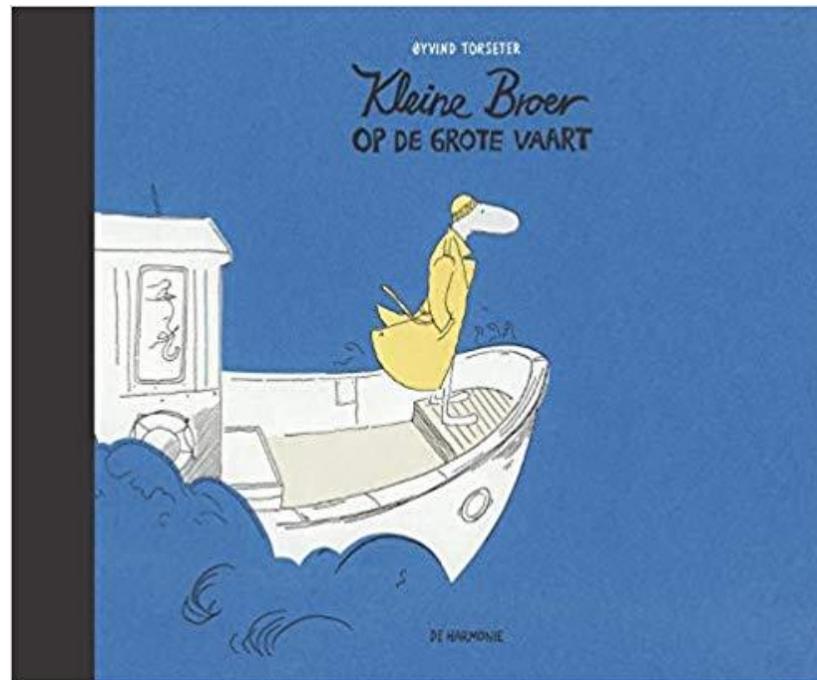
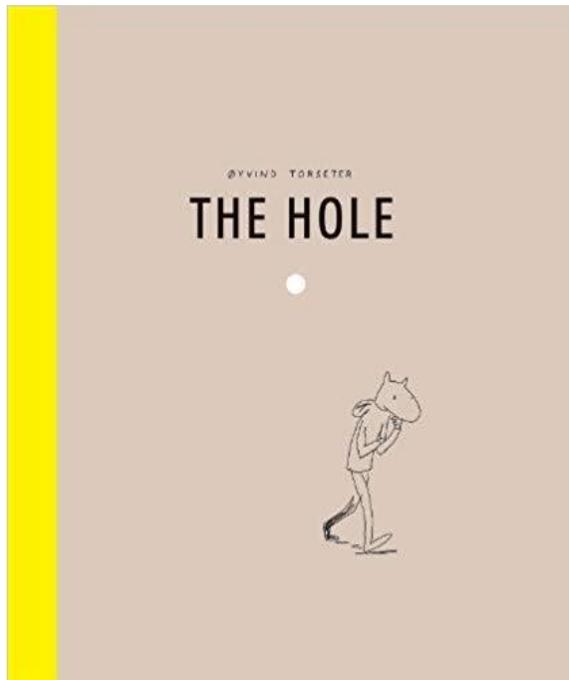
7. Continue an interrupted dialogue sentence with a lower case letter:

"I'm sorry," replied Fred, "it's quite a small hole and quite a small apartment."

Repeating Characters

I have some characters that I like to draw and I try to put them in different situations to see how they react. They are my actors!

Øyvind Torseter



Unit 2 Day 2

Role-Play Task

Role play the conversations between the two scientists and the main character OR the main character and the taxi driver.

Imagine what each may be saying and what their character is like.

